

REMARKS

Claims 1-64 were pending in the above-referenced patent application as filed. In an Office Action dated January 28, 2005, the Examiner determined that restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 was proper, and required the Applicants to elect between the following groups of claims:

Group I. Claims 1-24 and 61-64, drawn to a plurality of metal fibers and a battery plate made of plurality of metal fibers, classified in class 429, subclass 208.

Group II. Claims 25-34, drawn to a method of milling metallic fibers, classified in class 29, subclass 4.51.

Group III. Claims 35-60, drawn to a method of making an electrochemical cell electrode, classified in class 29, subclass 825.

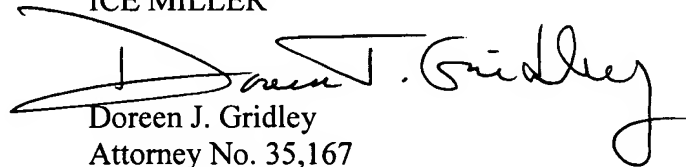
In response, the Applicants elect Claims 1-24 and 61-64 of Group I.

The Examiner requested copies of the foreign references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement received on April 3, 2002. Enclosed are copies of foreign references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement mailed December 16, 2004. These are the only foreign references cited for this application.

In the event Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need to petition for an extension of time or to pay an additional fee, Applicants conditionally petition therefor, and authorize any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account 09-0007.

Very truly yours,

ICE MILLER



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Enclosures: Copies of Foreign References.